

Alternative Estimates

In addition to the Primary estimates of benefits, we plan to present one or more alternative estimates. For mortality incidence, at least one of the planned alternative estimates will assume that the effect is related only to short-term exposures or that any chronic effects are smaller in size than assumed in the Base Estimate. As a result, mortality incidence will involve the use of the Schwartz et al. (1996) short-term exposure study, adjusted using the ratio of distributed lag to single day coefficients from Schwartz et al. (2000). It does not incorporate any mortality effect of chronic-exposure. In addition, for at least one of the alternative estimates the project team plans to assume that death is advanced by six months for COPD-related mortality, and five years for all other causes.

The short-term mortality alternative(s) will provide an alternative perspective based on the life-expectancy method and will need to be considered in conjunction with the Base Estimate. Presentation of Base and Alternative estimates in the 812 Report may not be necessary if the probability analysis planned for the 812 Report is successful. Given the use of the Alternative, can the Council provide suggestions for improvement?

Sensitivity Calculations

In addition to the Primary and Alternative estimates of benefits, we present a series of sensitivity calculations that make use of other sources of concentration-response and valuation data for key benefits categories, as well as examining key analytical parameters, such as the form of the lag between changes in PM exposure and realization of changes in health outcomes. These estimates, however, are not meant to be comprehensive. Rather, they reflect some of the key issues identified by EPA or commentors as likely to have a significant impact on total benefits. Individual adjustments in the tables should not be added together without addressing potential issues of overlap and low joint probability among the endpoints. Exhibit 6-4 lists these sensitivity calculations.

[continue on 6-19 – May 12 original]